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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Judicial Council Hears Report on Cost Benefits of Court Technology System

Sacramento—California will save almost \$300 million annually once the California Court Case Management System (CCMS) is deployed and fully operational in all 58 superior courts, according to an independent cost-benefit analysis by Grant Thornton, LLP that was presented to the Judicial Council today at a public meeting.

The study further indicated that deployments to fewer than 58 courts would also provide substantial court savings as deployments proceed.

The cost-benefit analysis was conducted by Grant Thornton, LLP, the U.S. member firm of Grant Thornton International Ltd., one of the six leading global audit, tax, and advisory organizations in the world.

“This analysis confirms that a statewide case management system not only has an essential role in the operation of our state justice system, but offers opportunities for long-term efficiencies in court operations and in providing better service to the public,” said Court of Appeal Justice Terence L. Bruiniers, chair of the CCMS Governance Executive Committee.

CCMS is an integrated court and case management system that uses a single application. It will support courts of all sizes and be maintained on a statewide level. The development of CCMS was triggered by the actions and business demands of superior courts that found themselves with failing or inadequate case management systems that needed replacement in order for the courts to continue operations.

When the state assumed responsibility for funding the trial courts in 1998, more than 130 variations of 70 independently operated systems were used in California’s trial courts. The level of technology varied widely from court to court depending on the resources and technological capabilities previously provided by county government. Many of these systems were outdated and no longer met the needs of courts, justice partners, or California’s court users.

Council members saw a demonstration, led by Judge Robert J. Moss, of CCMS as it currently operates in the Superior Court of Orange County and as hosted in the California Courts Technology Center. The council also saw a demonstration by Judge Glen M. Reiser, Superior Court of Ventura County, of CCMS-V4 as it currently operates statewide.

The cost-benefit analysis is available on the California Courts website at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/20110225itemj.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/reports/20110225itemj.pdf). It was presented as an information-only item.

In other matters, the Judicial Council took these actions:

**Commendation for John G. Davies:** Approved a resolution commending the leadership and achievements of Mr. John G. Davies for his 48 years of service to the judiciary and the people of California. As judicial appointments secretary to Governor Pete Wilson (1995–1999) and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (2004–2007), Mr. Davies recommended more than 640 candidates for trial court appointments, 49 candidates for Court of Appeal appointments, and four candidates for Supreme Court appointments.

**New Long Beach Courthouse:** Approved the naming of a new trial courthouse to be constructed in the City of Long Beach in honor of former Governor George Deukmejian for his contributions to the state justice system. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held April 7, 2011, for the new courthouse, which will be the first new state-funded courthouse in Los Angeles County. It will replace the current deficient courthouse with a new 31-courtroom facility.

**Judges' Retirement System II:** Approved a recommendation to cosponsor legislation with the California Judges Association to amend the Judges Retirement System II (JRS II) statutes to: (1) allow JRS II members who previously served as subordinate judicial officers (SJOs) to purchase JRS II service credit for a fraction of their SJO years; and (2) allow a spouse of a JRS II member who is entitled to preretirement death benefits to opt for benefits that have a lower dollar value, and/or to waive his or her share of the benefits and allow them to pass to another designated beneficiary.

**Subordinate Judicial Officers:** Approved a modification to the allocation schedule for SJO conversions authorized under Government Code section 69615(c)(1)(A). The modification will allow the Superior Court of Orange County to convert a second vacant SJO position to a judgeship in fiscal year 2011–2012 and facilitate the timely implementation of the SJO conversion policy. The AOC also recommends guidelines for the conversion of additional SJO vacancies authorized under Government Code section 69615(c)(1)(C).

**Visitation Grant Program:** Subject to the availability of federal funding, approved the allocation and distribution of \$766,828 statewide for the Access to Visitation Grant Program for fiscal years 2011–2012 and 2012–2013. The program supports and facilitates noncustodial parents’ access to and visitation with their children through supervised visitation and exchange services, parent education, and group counseling services.

Meeting materials are available at [www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age20110225.pdf](http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/jc/documents/age20110225.pdf).

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*The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and ensures leadership and excellence in court administration.*